

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Claims:

Claims 17-21 and 23-31 are in this application.

Claims 1-16 and 22 have been canceled.

Claim 17 is currently amended.

Claims 27-31 are new.

Claim Rejections

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 17-19, 21, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mayer et al. (US 5,264,108) (hereinafter "Mayer"). (Office Action at Page 2).

Claim 17 is currently amended to include the limitation of previously allowable dependent claim 22: "an inter-layer dielectric material electrically isolating the electrically conductive trace." (Office Action at Page 4). Therefore, claim 17 is not anticipated by Mayer.

Claims 18-19, 21, and 23 depend from claim 17. Based at least in part on their dependencies, claims 18-19, 21, and 23 are also not anticipated by Mayer.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 20, 24, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mayer in view of Saka et al. (JP 2000021546) (hereinafter "Saka"). (Office Action at page 3).

Claims 20, 24, and 26 depend from claim 17. As discussed, claim 17 is currently amended to include allowable subject matter. Therefore, claims 20, 24, and 26 are not rendered obvious by Mayer in view of Saka.

Conclusion:

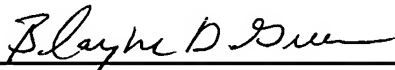
Applicant respectfully submits that claims 17-21 and 23-31 are in condition for allowance. Early issuance of the Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge shortages or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 500393. A Fee Transmittal is enclosed in duplicate for fee processing purposes. The Examiner is invited to call Blayne Green at (503) 439-8778 if there remains any issue with allowance of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

INTEL CORPORATION

Dated: 7/19, 2005


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